

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00252 211010Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 MMO-01 SS-15 ABF-01 OMB-01
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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6342

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AMGT, APER, OGEN
SUBJECT: NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL IN KHARTOUM

REF: (A) STATE 11604; (B) STATE 13169

1. I AM MOST DISTRESSED AT INDICATIONS FROM REFTELS THAT OMB IS POSING A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES PROMULGATED AND REINFORCED AT THE LEVEL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. IN DAYS OF YORE WHEN I WAS ASSIGNED TO A REGIONAL BUREAU IN THE DEPARTMENT, OMB WAS VERY MUCH A PART OF THE NSC DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY NO LONGER THE CASE. OMB APPEARS TO BE THE LAST TO GET THE WORD. I AM ALSO REMINDED OF THE PROMISES OF SUPPORT BY AF/EX WHILE BEING INFORMED THAT NOW EVEN DAS POSITIONS FOR PERSONNEL OFFICER AND GSO ARE IN LIMBO DUE TO THE OMB RESTRICTIONS.

2. THERE HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN NO FREEZES ON PERSONNEL CEILINGS SINCE MY ARRIVAL HERE LAST JULY. WE HAVE A NEW DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE. WITH SOME RELUCTANCE I HAVE BEEN PERSUADED TO AGREE TO A NUMBER OF POSITIONS IN THE AID MISSION HERE. AT WASHINGTON'S RPT WASHINGTON'S URGING I ACQUIESCED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE COMMUNICATIONS POSITIONS HERE, PREVIOUSLY HELD BY TDYERS.

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3. THE ADVANCE TEAM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE C-130 SALE TO THE SUDANESE ARMED FORCES HAS ALREADY ARRIVED. THEIR NUMBERS WILL SOON RISE TO AT LEAST THIRTY AMERICANS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM, AFTER CLEARING ALL THE POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS, IS NOW TO BE HELD UP BY OUR OWN EXECUTIVE

BRANCH.

4. I HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, AD NAUSEUM, THAT THIS IS AN EXTREMELY HARSH ENVIRONMENT AND THAT ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR PERSONNEL STATIONED HERE INVOLVES A LOT OF MONEY AND A GREAT DEAL OF WORK. IT IS UNFAIR TO EXPECT THE TWO AMERICANS (BOTH OF WHOM ARE EXCELLENT), BACKED BY A LOCAL STAFF OF UNEVEN QUALITY, TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING BURDEN. IT IS UNFAIR TO OUR SINGLE CONSULAR OFFICER TO EXPECT HIM TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEMS OF RECORDED RAPID GROWTH IN THE VISA BUSINESS AS WELL AS CONTINUING EXPANSION OF THE LOCAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

5. I BELIEVE THE POLICIES WE ARE TRYING TO IMPLEMENT ARE EXCELLENT AND WILL EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THIS COUNTRY AND IN THIS AREA. LET US TRY TO GET THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON BOARD WITH THE PRESIDENT.

6. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE AN INDICATION THAT RELIEF, IN THE FORM OF SORELY NEEDED PERSONNEL, IS ON THE WAY. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH AN ASSURANCE, OUR ONLY RECOURSE WILL BE TO SLOW DOWN PRESENT PROGRAMS AND REDUCE STAFF ALREADY HERE TO A LEVEL WHICH WE CAN HANDLE.
BERGUS

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